



Meeting Date: July 30, 2020

To: Village Board Administration Committee

From: Michael Braiman, Village Manager

Subject: Boards and Commissions Review- Resident Feedback

As part of the Administration Committee's July 30 meeting on boards and commissions, the Committee sought feedback from the community in regards to the roles and responsibilities of the Housing and Human Relations Commissions. This memo is intended to summarize the feedback received through 10:30am on Thursday, July 30:

Housing Commission- Suggestions for Roles & Responsibilities

- Update the Village's affordable housing plan
- Provide stronger language in regards to the Commissions involvement in the Comprehensive Plan to include providing expertise, guiding necessary research and making recommendations
- Evaluate the housing inventory in Wilmette
- Promote affordable housing for individuals who work in Wilmette
- Help elderly and persons with disabilities to stay in their homes
- Collect and analyze racial demographic data, particularly as it relates to Housing Our Own- Wilmette
- Monitor Cleland Place and other affordable housing developments
- Move public education regarding fair housing laws and its history in Wilmette higher on the priority list

Human Relations Commission- Suggestions for Roles & Responsibilities

- Market the Village to target audiences who are currently underrepresented in Wilmette
- Create more touch points for diverse populations, including people of color, to spend time in the Village (bridge economic development and human relations activity)
- Recruit women and minority-owned businesses
- Foster a brother/sister relationship with another Chicago area municipality with contrasting demographics
- Conduct a study of racial history in Wilmette
- Identify values and principles of governance that provides a context of racial justice and social-economic equity
- Serve as advisor to the Village Board on issues revolving around human rights, race relations, civil rights and conflict resolution

- Conduct discovery research to determine where the community is delivering on its inclusive vision and identify gaps; make recommendations to address gaps
- Work with other local governments to develop a "whole of community" approach to inclusivity
- Develop policies and programs that improve economic and racial diversity; Examine and remove policies that discourage diversity

In addition to the above suggested functions, the Village received suggestions in regards to the mission/purpose of the Human Relations Commission:

-Adopt a more overt articulation of this Commission's role in ensuring, monitoring and guiding our Village's commitment to being an "inclusive community where people of all racial, ethnic, religious, and cultural backgrounds feel safe and welcomed," as communicated in the Village's June 4 letter to the community

-The Human Relations Commission is the means, per the Department of Justice, to "promote ways in which people in communities learn to get along and to safeguard equal opportunity for all" by using the "tools of fact finding, staff training, information sharing, community education, mediation, cultural literacy, hate crime response and conflict management." And to utilize Department of Justice guidelines as follows:

- To promote and assist in developing an environment of fairness and respect among citizens by ensuring that responses to acts of exclusion, bias, and discrimination are meaningful and consistent.
- To develop ways to measure and monitor community relations, race relations, and civil rights issues, particularly those that are sources of intergroup conflict.
- To involve all segments of the community in understanding and appreciating the benefits of positive intergroup relations.
- To offer a range of programs and services that help communities prevent and resolve issues of human relations, race relations, and civil rights.
- To develop ways of anticipating, preparing for, and relieving community tensions arising from intergroup conflict.